



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNECTICUT ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM SUCCESSFULLY PASSES FIRST ARMY'S EVALUTATION/VALIDATION

WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn., - Brig. Gen. Thaddeus Martin, Adjutant General and Commander of the Connecticut National Guard, announces that the 14th Civil Support Team (CST), successfully passed their week long validation by the First Army's WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) Division evaluation team from Atlanta, Ga.

The validation began on Monday, June 13, 2005, and was completed earlier today. The unit was evaluated on 15 collective tasks and passed every task. This validation is the final step in receiving certification by the Secretary of Defense.

"The evaluation was a total success for the team members, for the Connecticut National Guard and the state," said Martin. "They are the first of the next phase of CST state certifications to become validated." There are currently 32 other teams validated from prior phases.

A CST is capable of rapidly deploying to a suspected or actual terrorist attack, conducts special reconnaissance activities, with a specialization in weapons of mass destruction, to assess the effects of the terrorist attack and provide situational understanding to command channels, conducts interagency operations to provide

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technical and consultative operations to advise the local authority on managing the effects of the attack, and minimize the impact on the civilian populace, and assist in facilitating follow-on emergency and military support deploying to execute validated requests for assistance by the civil authority.

The mission of a CST is to support civil authorities at a domestic CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear and Explosive) incident site by identifying CBRNE agents/substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising on response measures, and assisting with appropriate requests for state support.

The 14th CST consists of 22 highly skilled, full-time members of the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard who are federally resourced, trained and evaluated, and provide an added resource to the governor.

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